



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr, Chair and
Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Samira Jackson, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: February 4, 2026

RE: **SB 296 - Limitations on Juvenile Contact with Incarcerated Adults**

POSITION: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 296 WITH AMENDMENTS**. This bill seeks to prohibit children arrested, convicted, or awaiting trial from being detained or confined where they can see or hear incarcerated adults. Additionally, the bill generally seeks to keep juveniles out of adult jail settings.

Ten sheriff's offices oversee detention centers in Maryland. The administrators of these centers are members of the Maryland Correctional Administrators Association (MCAA). MCAA is working with the sponsor on amendments to this bill and changes to Maryland Rules to create a feasible timeline for detainers to be acted upon. There is also a proposed new rule, MD. RULE 4-220 – Initial Appearance-Detainers, which would require prompt action on detainers and guarantee a timely hearing for defendants within 30 days of the initial appearance.

MCPA and MSA support the efforts by MCAA and the amendments and rule changes being discussed. For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 296 WITH AMENDMENTS** and urge a **FAVORABLE** committee report **with the amendments to be offered by MCAA**.